If your patient was abusing prescription or illicit drugs, would you know?

—The National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health

In 2011, 3.1 million persons aged 12 or older reported using an illicit drug for the first time within the past 12 months. This averages to approximately 8,500 initiates per day¹. Additionally, 6.1 million persons aged 12 or older reported the nonmedical use of prescription psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month¹.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, has developed NIDAMED, a portfolio of resources to help nurses and other clinicians better address drug abuse in their patients. The portfolio includes the NIDA Drug Use Screening Tool—with both a one question quick screen and a full interactive screen—information guides on brief intervention and referral to treatment, and two new substance abuse related CEs. NIDAMED also includes patient materials and a variety of curriculum resources designed for students.

All resources are science-based and available free of charge. If you have questions about any of the NIDAMED resources, contact nidacoeteam@jbsinternational.com.

¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2012). Results from the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of national findings, NSDUH Series H-44, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4713. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.